

What is claimed is:

1. A method for pre-fetching an audio signal for a user, the method comprising:
 - establishing a telephone call with a user of an audio web telephone system;
 - providing a system greeting;
 - determining a user profile of the user;
 - retrieving one or more audio signals from an Internet protocol ("IP") network based on the user profile while the user is listening to the system greeting;
 - storing the one or more retrieved audio signals;
 - obtaining a request for an audio signal from the user;
 - retrieving the requested audio signal to the user from the stored one or more retrieved audio signals; and
 - converting the requested audio signal to a packet based signal conforming to a telephony packet protocol.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - providing a telephony interface module;
 - wherein the step of retrieving the requested audio signal further comprises storing, in a buffer in the telephony interface module the requested audio signal; and
 - wherein the converting step further comprises converting by the telephony interface process, the requested audio signal stored in the buffer to a packet based signal conforming to a telephony packet protocol.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining further comprises accessing a file listing desired audio signals based on input entered by the user.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining further comprises accessing a file listing desired audio signals based on past actions by the user.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the audio signal is a streamed audio signal.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the telephony packet protocol conforms to one of a H.323 and a SIP communications standard.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by the user a phone call to the audio web telephone system.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by the audio web telephone system a phone call to the user.

9. A method for pre-fetching an audio signal for a plurality of users, the method comprising:
determining a trend profile of the plurality of users;
retrieving one or more audio signals from an IP network base on the trend profile of the plurality of users prior to establishing a telephone call with one user of the plurality of users;
storing the one or more retrieved audio signals;
establishing a telephone call from a user of an audio web telephone system;
obtaining a request for an audio content from the user;
retrieving the requested audio content to the user from the stored one or more retrieved audio contents; and
converting the requested audio signal to a packet based signal conforming to a telephony packet protocol.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:
providing a telephony interface module;

3 wherein the step of retrieving the requested audio signal further comprises storing, in a
4 buffer in the telephony interface module the requested audio signal; and

5 wherein the converting step further comprises converting by the telephony interface
6 process, the requested audio signal stored in the buffer to a packet based signal conforming to a
7 telephony packet protocol.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of determining further comprises:

2 accessing a plurality of files, each file listing desired audio signal based on input entered
3 by each user of the plurality of users;

4 identifying desired audio signals identically listed in two or more of the files.

5 12. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of determining further comprises:

6 accessing a plurality of files, each file listing desired audio content based on past actions
7 by each user of the plurality of users; and

8 identifying desired audio signals identically listed in two or more of the files.

9 13. The method of claim 9 wherein the audio signal is a streamed audio signal.

10 14. The method of claim 9 wherein the telephony packet protocol conforms to one of a H.323
11 and a SIP communications standard.

12 15. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by
13 the user a phone call to the audio web telephone system.

14 16. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by
15 the audio web telephone system a phone call to the user.

16 17. An audio web telephone system for pre-fetching an audio signal, the system comprising:

a telephony gateway in communication with a public switched telephone network ("PSTN"), the telephony gateway configured to receive a telephone call from a user using a telephony device;

an Internet protocol ("IP") network;

an audio browser comprising:

a content retrieval module in communication with the IP network, the content retrieval module configured to retrieve one or more audio signals from the IP network based on a profile of the user; and

a telephony interface module in communication with the telephony gateway for communicating with a telephony device of the user and in communication with an IP network to receive the one or more audio signals, the telephony interface configured to translate an IP-based signal of the one or more audio signals to a telephony packet-based signal of the one or more audio signals, thereby providing an audio message to the user via the telephony device; and

a web cache configured to store the one or more audio signals.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the content retrieval module further comprises one of text-to-speech module and streaming media module.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein the audio browser further comprises a navigation module.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the navigation module further comprises one of speech recognition module and touch tone (DTMF) recognition module.